FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 APRIL 1984

Israel

Reaction to Jerusalem Attack — Israel will do everything possible to prevent a repetition of such attacks and will "severely punish" those who carried it out as well as those who ordered it, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. Although the Jerusalem attack "has no connection with what is happening in Lebanon," Israel will tighten crossing arrangements on its northern border because the "terrorists" apparently came from Lebanese territory, Shamir subsequently stated in a Jerusalem radio interview.

In Paris an anonymous caller told AFP that a group from Palestinian dissident Abu Nidal's organization carried out the attack. However, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said the operation was staged by "our heroic revolutionaries" and declared that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) had claimed responsibility. Both Baghdad Voice of PLO and San'a' Voice of Palestine radios maintained the DFLP's claim that Palestinian commandos had successfully stormed an Israeli Government building in Jerusalem, seizing hostages in order to secure the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Baghdad Voice of PLO spoke of a "state of confusion in the Zionist entity" and asserted that Israeli military censorship is canceling important parts of foreign correspondents' dispatches on the operation.

Another Palestinian resistance group, the PFLP, announced that its forces shelled an Israeli settlement southeast of Tiberias with Grad missiles, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Jerusalem radio said the rockets exploded harmlessly north of the Israeli border in Lebanon.

Denial Over Tank Gun — The Defense Ministry spokesman denied as a "complete lie" *DER SPIEGEL*'s story that Israel has acquired a 120-mm gun as used in the FRG's Leopard tanks, ITIM reported.

Lebanon

Security suffered a "serious setback" when clashes erupted across the contact lines in and around Beirut on 2 April, Beirut radio reported. The fighting continued throughout the night but died down on the morning of 3 April, the radio said. Earlier, Foreign Minister Elie Salim met with Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, who is scheduled to meet with President Amin al-Jumayyil shortly, according to the radio.

In another development, a man in the custody of the Amal Movement on charges of assassinating Shaykh Raghib Harb told journalists he is a member of the Israeli-sponsored National Guard in southern Lebanon and was paid by an Israeli officer to assassinate Shaykh Harb, Beirut radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iran is massing "three-fourths" of its army on the border in preparation for a new large-scale offensive against Basra, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing an Iraqi military spokesman. If the offensive takes place, it will be the end of the war for Iran, the spokesman warned, as the Iraqi Army is ready to use "new methods" to crush it and inflict "the heaviest losses."

In other military developments, Iraqi aircraft bombed "residential" sections of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Dehloran on 1 April, killing two civilians and injuring seven others, the military communique carried by Tehran radio announced.

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SPA: Mujahidin Storm Airport in Oruzgan Province

LD021324 Riyadh SPA in English 1229 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Islamabad, April 2, SPA — A Soviet military aircraft standing on the runway of Tarinkot airport in Oruzgan Province in Central Afghanistan was destroyed by the Afghan mujahideen on March 20, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported here last night.

The agency said the mujahideen armed with rocket-launchers had first attacked the airport's security post and later stormed the runway where the aircraft became their final target.

As a result of the encounter, 17 Soviet-Afghan government troops, a Soviet brigadier and the aircraft's crew were killed, it added.

The agency said three mujahideen were also among those killed.

AFP: Rebels Sink 2 Soviet Boats With Rockets

BK011433 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] Islamabad, April 1 (AFP) — More than 50 Soviet soldiers were drowned when Afghan rebels sank two Soviet motorboats with rockets in Kabul River last week, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported today. The news agency, which is generally reliable, said the boats were crossing the soldiers from Samerkhel district to the rebels' Kama Sub-Division stronghold in eastern Afghanistan's Ningarhar Province.

The Soviet casualties followed a major offensive on March 22 in Kama by their land forces backed by helicopter gunships in which the agency said about 1,000 tanks and military vehicles participated. The attack which continued "without big success" for five days left over a dozen guerrillas dead besides dozens of civilian casualties, the agency said.

Karachi Report

BK011730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin had shot down a Soviet helicopter and killed about 100 Soviet-Karmal troops during 5 days of fighting last week 22 km northeast of Jalalabad. Another 50 troops were reported killed when the mujahidin destroyed with rockets two boats in the Kabul River sailing from Samerkhel to Kama military camp.

Military Court Sentences Four Guards

LD211721 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Mar 84

[Text] A group of thieves and terrorists who were misusing sarandoy uniforms, clothes, and weapons recently was caught red-handed in (Qala-e Zaman Khan) in Kabul by patrol units.

This group, whose duty was to safeguard public security, protect wealth, property, and safety of the people, misused this sacred duty, disrupted the security of the people in (Qala-e Zaman Khan), and engaged in stealing public wealth and property.

A spokesman of the primary military court said that in consideration of the circumstances and status of the accused, the court sentences them to the following various terms of imprisonment:

'Aziz Ghows, son of Mohammad 'Azam, third saran [sarandoy junion rank] of training regiment to 12 years' imprisonment.

Ahmad Mokhtar, son of Ahmad Shah, third saran of the security unit, (Ghazni Serdeh) band; and Gol Aqa, son of Saheb Gol, inhabitant of Kabul Province, each to 10 years' imprisonment.

Malik Merza, son of Gol Merza, to 2 years' imprisonment.

The source added that the above terms of imprisonment are the final decisions and have been passed on to the relevant authority for application.

Foreign Office Protests Indian Border Construction

BK031016 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that at about 1000 yesterday some Indian citizens began constructing frames right on the border line near border outpost No 1,001 at Bhurungamari in Kurigram District. At about 1100, a team of two technicians, two surveyors, and seven workers under protection of the Indian Border Security Force and police once again came near outpost No 1,002 and began constructing frames for barbed wire fences on the border line.

The spokesman further said that the acting Indian high commissioner in Dhaka was summoned yesterday to the Foreign Office and a strong protest was lodged. He was told that the act was a flagrant violation of India-Bangladesh border principles, which forbid any kind of defense activity within 150 yards on both sides of the border. It was further stated that the act disregarded the internationally recognized practice that no construction can be made unilaternally on the border line.

The spokesman added that the Indian Government has been requested to refrain from any such construction in the interest of relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Asks Cooperation To Restore Democracy

BK311704 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan has given a fervent call to the people to extend all-out cooperation for the restoration of democracy in the country.

He was speaking at a reception organized by the joint conveners of the Janadal metropolitan unit in Dhaka tonight. He said that every citizen should sincerely work for the peaceful transfer of power through the verdict of the people. Ataur Rahman Khan said that the responsibility vested on all of us is very difficult, but he hoped that with the grace of Almighty God it will be possible to overcome the present crisis.

Leader Says Awami Ready To Participate in Elections

BK010934 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, Mrs Hasina Wajed, the president of the Awami League party, has said that her party is ready to participate in the parliamentary elections scheduled for next month. In an interview with the EASTERN NEWS AGENCY, she said the 15-party opposition alliance and her party support the holding of elections, including presidential elections.

Other opposition parties have however boycotted the call for elections. The president, General Ershad, has set the date for the polls on the 27th of next month.

Islamic Party Head Calls for Caretaker Government

BK021555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 2 (AFP) — A right-wing Islamic fundamentalist party today called on President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's military regime to hand over power to a caretaker government before holding national elections.

Ameer Abbas Ali Khan, leader of the Jamat-i-Islami, said at a big rally in front of Dhaka's main mosque today that the caretaker government should be headed by the Supreme Court chief justice.

The Jamat leader said that the date for the national election should be fixed by the caretaker government.

He said the party favoured holding parliamentary elections before the presidential polls, both of which are now scheduled to take place on May 27.

The party, whose objective is to establish an Islamic government in the country, also called for a parliamentary democratic system and said they were not opposed to a dialogue with the military regime.

However, Mr Khan stressed that a democratic environment must be created before a successful dialogue could be held.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab, Haryana

Amritsar Patrolling Intensified

BK021613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] In Amritsar, patrolling by police and paramilitary forces has been intensified following the killing of the former Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] member of legislative assembly, Mr Harbans Lal Khana, and his gunman this morning. Some unidentified assailants shot at them while they were in a medical shop outside the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital. Another person was injured in the incident. The assailants escaped in a waiting jeep. Senior police officials reached the spot immediately, and vigorous efforts are on to arrest the culprits.

The killings triggered angry protests and the irate mob set on fire two buses. In view of the mounting tension the district authorities clamped a 48-hour curfew in the city. All educational institutions, within the limits of Amritsar corporation have been closed for today and tomorrow.

Curfew has also been imposed in Jullundur City from 1930 [1400 GMT] today to 0600 [0030 GMT] on Wednesday as a precautionary measure. There will be a relaxation for 2 hours tomorrow from 1730 to 1930. A general alert was given in the neighboring state of Haryana also.

The National Executive of the BJP has strongly condemed the incident. Briefing newsmen at Ahmedabad this evening at the end of the executive meeting, the vice president, Mr Ram Jethmalani, said that a five-member team of the party headed by Mr L.K. Advani will visit Amritsar tomorrow to assess the situation and help restore peace.

The former external affairs minister, Mr Swaran Singh, said in a statement that such acts of violence are to be condemned by all. They are bound to cause a severe setback to process of normalization of the situation in the state, he said.

The president of the Punjab pradesh [state] Congress Committee-I, Mr R.L. Bhatia, has strongly condemned the killing of Mr Harbans Lal Khanna.

The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has also condemned the killing and the subsequent incidents of violence in the city.

Curfew Imposed; MP Shot

BK030309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, no untoward incident has been reported since last evening. The situation in curfew-bound Amritsar City continues to be tense but under control. Police and paramilitary forces are carrying out intensive patrolling of sensitive areas. Inspector General of Police P.S. Bhinder has arrived in Amritsar to supervise the maintenance of law and order.

The curfew has also been imposed in some parts of Jullundur, Ludhiana, and Patiala as a precautionary measure. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the buses are running normally in all parts of the state.

Here is a flash: In Chandigarh, some unidentified persons shot at and injured a member of parliament, Mr V.N. Tiwari this morning.

Prohibitory Orders Issued

BK030753 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] In Haryana, Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people] has been imposed throughout the state as a precautionary measure. All public functions have been canceled for a week. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, told newsmen in Chandigarh that shoot at sight order will also continue throughout the state.

Strike Observed

BK030919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] A bundh [strike] is being observed in different towns in Punjab and in Chandigarh in response to a call by the Bharatiya Janata Party against the killings. According to an official spokesman, the response to the bundh is partial to complete. Government offices, educational institutions, and public transport are however normal.

Police, Mob Exchange Fire

BK031249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] In Amritsar, an unruly mob attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) patrolling party in (Silala Bhaya) today. The mob also used firearms. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, three persons were killed when the CRPF returned the fire.

Meanwhile, a curfew has been clamped in Khanna in Ludhiana District. The police made some preventive arrests in Patiala this morning.

Congress-I Committee Condemns Terrorist Activities

BK030649 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] The All-India Congress-I [AICC-I] Committee has condemned the murder of Mr Harbans Singh Manchanda, Mr Harbans Lal Khanna, and Mr (Keval Krishna). In a statement issued in New Delhi, the AICC-I demanded a firm and immediate action by the government to curb terrorist activities. It has extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and all those who have suffered because of violent actions. The extremist activities against the national interest must be put

down firmly. It said the aim of the extremists is to create communal disturbances and destabilize the cordial relations which exist amongst all communities. All terrorist organizations and individuals indulging in violence are doing a great disservice to the country. The AICC-I appealed to all communities not to be provoked into violence and said it stands committed to the country's unity and stability.

Reportage on Austrian Chancellor's Visit

Gandhi, Sinowatz Speak at Banquet

BK270309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 84

[Text] India and Austria have expressed concern over nuclear arms race and the deteriorating situation in Europe, West Asia, and in the neighborhood. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and the visiting Austrian chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, have also called for immediate steps to defuse the situation. They were speaking at adinner hosted by Mrs Gandhi in honor of Dr Sinowatz. They wanted the countries whose role is not based on power politics to exert pressure on the superpowers for the resumption of talks on disarmament. The two leaders affirmed that conflicts can never be solved by the use of force.

Mrs Gandhi said extreme distrust has precluded any meaningful negotiations. Idividually or collectively we should endeavor to stop stockpiling of nuclear weapons. She regretted that at times when we should concentrate on development, assistances are being reduced and even withdrawn.

Dr Sinowatz said world peace depends on bridging the gap between the affluent and developing nations. He recalled the traditional ties between the two countries and said they stand for a peaceful world order based on sovereignty, respect, and legitimate rights of all states.

Chancellor Addresses News Conference

BK301042 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Mar 84

[Text] Austria has strongly come out in favor of holding an international conference on money and finance for development as proposed by last year's New Delhi summit. The Austrian chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, told a news confernce in New Delhi today that his country has always advocated convening of such a conference. He said Austria is also strongly in favor of resuming North-South dialogue. One of the most important tasks before the world today is to bring about a new international economic order. Dr Sinowatz, who will be leaving New Delhi tomorrow at the end of his state visit, said he had excellent talks with the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, on the world political situation. He said the talks were of great benefit to him as Mrs Gandhi is a seasoned international politician. As chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, her word counts in world affairs.

Sinowatz Departs 31 March

BK311028 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] A warm and ceremonial send-off was given to the Austrian chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, when he left New Delhi this morning after a week-long visit. He was seen off at the airport, among others, by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and her Cabinet colleagues.

Congress-I Wins Meghalaya Upper House Seat

BK311305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The lone seat from Meghalaya in the Rajya Sabha biennial election has gone to the Congress-I. The party candidate, Mr J.E. (Tariang), defeated his only rival, Mr E.B. Lyngdoh, of the APHIC [All Party Hill Leaders' Conference] and Hill State Peoples' Democratic Party alliance in Shillong today. Mr (Tariang) polled 39 votes against his rival's 18. Two votes were invalid. Mr (Tariang) is the working president of the pradesh [state] Congress-I.

Zia on U.S. 'Package Deal,' Afghanistan, Elections

BK030433 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed the hope that the U.S. Government will fulfill its commitment concerning the 1981 package deal with Pakistan for military sales and economic assistance and will not allow its implementation to be hindered. He was addressing a press conference at Islamabad airport on his return home from Guinea last night.

The president referred to reports regarding some conditions sought to be laid down by the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee with regard to the Pakistan-U.S. package deal. He said Pakistan is satisfied to note that the U.S. Government disapproves of moves regarding the package deal, which had been entered into with the support of the U.S. Congress. The president emphasized that the move by some individuals in the U.S. Senate does not mean that it has the approval of the government and country as a whole. He said we can easily understand the motives of those who have made such moves against the Pakistan-U.S. package deal. He was sure that the United States as a superpower would stick to the agreement.

The president reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes. We have neither the resources nor the need to manufacture atomic weapons.

The president also referred to his meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh. He said they had a wide-ranging discussion on bilateral matters and the international situation, including the Iran-Iraq conflict, and both countries believe that all individual and collective efforts aimed at bringing this war to an end must be supported.

Referring to his meeting with the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, Mr Habib Chatti, the president said he assured him that Pakistan fully supports the appeal of the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to call an extraordinary meeting of Islamic foreign ministers to discuss the unholy Israeli designs to change the status of Jerusalem. He said Pakistan will always be in the forefront in the struggle to liberate Jerusalem.

In reply to a question on the prospects of the shuttle diplomacy by the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, the president said that irrespective of the stand of parties concerned it has a good chance of success. He said they have made a lot of progress considering that such complex international issues require a lot of time and tremendous effort to arrive at a solution. He told a questioner that there is no question of direct talks with an administration installed by force by a superpower. Afghanistan is a global problem and Pakistan has to go along with the Islamic conference, the United Nations, and the Nonaligned Movement in its efforts to seek a solution.

On relations with India, he said Pakistan is engaged in a peace offensive with India, and he is confident that relations between the two countries will improve.

The president declared that he would stick to the election program and that elections will be held on schedule with the cooperation of the people. He told a questioner that it has yet to be decided whether the elections will be held on a party or nonparty basis. He said if the elections are held on a nonparty basis and political parties decided to boycott it, then the turnout of voters to exercise their franchise will determine the success of the elections. He said if political parties fail to emerge as a strong and solid team to run the administration of the country, then it will again result in martial law. He said he believes the elections campaign should be short, which is essential for maintenance of law and order. He told a questioner that the Elections Commission would take appropriate measures to prevent bad elements from contesting the elections.

About the setting up of Kazi [Islamic] courts, the president said this question as well as the law of evidence had been examined at the last meeting of the Cabinet and it was considered appropriate to appoint a federal committee to go into them in detail.

The president paid a glowing tribute to the late president of Guinea, Sekou Toure, who had been a faithful friend of Pakistan and a worthy chairman of the Islamic Peace Committee. He said during his stay in Conakry he met with many world leaders. On his way back, he visited Nigeria and held talks with President General Buhari. He was glad to know that the friendship between the two countries was deep-rooted. The president said that on his way home from Saudi Arabia he made a brief stopover in Bahrain [passage indistinct] and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Federal Advisory Council Begins Ninth Session

BK311044 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] began its ninth session in Islamabad this morning. The house disposed of one privilege and four adjournment motions.

Speaking on identical adjournment motions moved by Mr Nasir Ali Baluch and Haji Mohammad Saifullah, the law minister said Pakistan will continue to condemn the unholy Zionist designs against the sites sacred to the Muslims and will do everything possible to ensure their preservation and sanctity. He said Pakistan's stand on the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, including the Al-Aqsa Mosque, has been resolute and active. After the statement by the minister, the movers did not press the motion.

Speaking on the privilege motion moved by Mr Hamza and an identical motion by Mr Mumtaz Ahmad Tarara, the federal minster for information and broadcasting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, said that since the inception of the Shoora, it had been the government's endeavor to give maximum possible coverage to the deliberations of the house over radio, television, and the press. Appropriate coverage is being given over radio and TV, but it is not possible to cover it word by word even by the newspapers. He categorically stated that there is no censorship of any kind, and newspapers are free to publish the proceedings of the house. The house referred the privilege motion to the rules and privileges committee.

Speaking on another adjournment motion by Mr Mumtaz Ahmad Tarara, the defense minister, Mir Ali Ahmad Khan Talpur, denied the allegation that people from Sind were not being recruited in the Armed Forces. An exclusive Sind regiment has been created by the present government and a number of recruiting centers established in the province to encourage the people of Sind to join the Armed Forces. The mover did not press the motion after the statement of the minister.

The house has now adjourned to meet again tomorrow morning.

1 April Economic Briefing

BK020414 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The national economy has overcome short-term difficulties during the first half of the current financial year as a result of an expected growth rate of about 4.8 percent in the gross national product and 37 percent in exports, together with comfortable stocks of commodities and foreign exchange reserves. This information was given to the Majlis-i-Shoora today by the federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq. He said the physical implementation of various schemes and programs of national development program in the first year of the sixth 5-year plan appear to be in line with trends of expenditure in the past. The minister was replying to a question by Dr Abdul Khaliq on the progress made in the implementation of the sixth plan during the first 6 months of the current year.

He explained that the 37 percent growth in exports was in terms of dollars compared with the annual plan target of 50 percent for the current financial year. This is despite the appreciation in the value of the dollar. If it is measured in SDR [special drawing rights] terms, the export growth was 42 percent during the period. He, however, said exports are expected to slow down during the rest of the year, reflecting the adverse impact of a severe drop in domestic cotton production. The shortfall in raw cotton earnings, nevertheless, is expected to be more than offset by the total export earnings during the year, which are ahead of last year by over 10 percent. On the other hand, (?cotton exports) showed (?no) significant increase during the first 6 months of the current financial year compared to the corresponding period last year. These are, however, likely to increase during the second half of the year.

About home remittances, the minister said these showed a growth rate of 2 percent during the period. Referring to monetary expansion during the period, the planning minister said substantial success has been achieved in bringing it down to 9.5 percent compared to 13.5 percent in the same period last year and 25 percent during 1982-83. This is expected to bring down inflationary pressures during the second half of the current financial year.

Referring to the price situation, Dr Mahbubul Haq said prices of various commodities increased during the first half due to rise in international prices. These included ghee and edible oils. The prices of onions, potatoes, and other vegetables also showed seasonal increase. However, he said, the (?pressure) on prices is expected to be far less during the second half of the year than the first half.

He said industrial production and exports have continued to expand at a highly encouraging rate. The completion of the hot rolls strip mill, which was brought into operation ahead of the revised schedule, would be an important factor in the industrial performance. This would be supplemented by the completion of three new cement units at (Dangdot), Thatta, and Kohat during the year.

Referring to the fifth 5-year plan, the minister said a preliminary evaluation showed that 122.68 billion rupees were spent on development during the plan period. Of this, 98.18 billion rupees were spent by the federal government and 24.5 billion rupees by the provincial governments.

The finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, told the house that the national income for the year 1982-83 at current market prices was estimated at 401,557 million rupees.

UN Representative on Afghanistan Discusses Mission

BK011059 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, flew to Geneva today on his way to the area to continue the diplomatic process aimed at settling the Afghanistan problem.

In an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN before his departure from New York, Mr Cordovez said he was going with great hope but not with too many illusions. Asked about the prospects of his mission, he said he believed once his talks with the parties began, they would be able to generate movement. Mr Cordovez said he had been assured by his interlocutors that they remain deeply committed to a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He was also encouraged by the fact that so many governments have reiterated their support to the diplomatic process.

Replying to a question, he said he had very recently received categorical assurances of support from the United States and the Soviet Union. They want the mission to be successful. Mr Cordovez said he remained convinced that an agreement was possible along the lines that have already been discussed. What is important is to move forward.

Mr Cordovez will arrive in Tehran on Tuesday, in Kabul on Thursday, and in Islamabad on Saturday to hold talks with leaders of Iran, the Karmal regime in Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

AFP: Flow of Afghan Refugees From Iran Halted

BK021549 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Islamabad, April 2 (AFP) — Pakistan has halted the flow of Afghan refugees crossing its western border from Iran, the daily newspaper *THE MUSLIM* said here today, quoting official sources.

The sources were quoted as saying that 5,000 Afghans had crossed from eastern Iran into the neighbouring Pakistani prov-

ince of Baluchistan in the last three months, and that some 50,000 more had been preparing to follow them.

A government spokesman here denied that any such ban on immigration had been announced, but said that immigration controls were being maintained.

There are already believed to be 700,000 Afghan refugees in Baluchistan, which receives some 10,000 a month across its border with Afghanistan.

Explanations for the influx of Afghan refugees from Iran vary. Some analysts here say that Iran has been imposing more stringent controls on them, others that the Afghans are fleeing harsh Iranian measures against drug traffickers.

Some Afghans arriving here have said that Iran is trying to draft the refugees — estimated at between one and four million in Iran — to fight in the country's war with Iraq.

Most of the Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan are fleeing the war between the Soviet-backed Afghan regime and the opposition guerrilla movements.

Delhi: Abdul Ghaffar Khan Leaves for Kabul

BK020304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The frontier leader, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, is reported to have left for Kabul for treatment. Badshah Khan told his followers that he will not return to Pakistan until he felt satisfied that the Pukhtuns are united. He did not rule out the possibility of visiting India.

Iranian Prime Minister's Wife Guests in Rawalpindi

GF021914 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Summary] The Iranian Cultural Center in Rawalpindi will celebrate the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet's daughter (peace be upon them) on 26 March. Islamic books and illustrations will be on display. The chief guest of the evening will be Mrs Zahra Rahnavard Musavi, wife of the Iranian prime minister.

Describes Women's Role

GF021915 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 28 Mar 84 p 1

[Report on interview with Mrs Zahra Rahnavard Musavi, wife of Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, by *HAIDER* correspondent Nabahat Shirin in Rawalpindi — date not given]

[Excerpts] Rawalpindi, 27 March — Iranian women enjoy complete freedom in their various activities, whereas the freedom granted to women under other systems is opposed to their natural and mental aptitudes. This opinion was expressed by the Iranian prime minister's wife, Mrs Zahra Rahnavard Musavi.

While shedding light on the role of women in the Iranian Revolution, Mrs Zahra Rahnavard Musavi said: Iranian women worked side by side with the men for the achievement of the revolution. In this context, she quoted Imam Khomeyni as saying that women are not in any way lesser than men in the revolution.

Speaking about the part played by Iranian women in the war with Iraq, Mrs Musavi said: The war has been thrust on us. The enemy country is being provided with weapons by the East and the West and our cities are being destroyed. Regarding the horrendous aspects of the war, Mrs Musavi said: We are peaceful people. If it were not so, we know how to answer them. [as published]

Mrs Zahra Rahnavard Musavi was herself attired in the Islamic apparel now in vogue in Iran. She not only enjoys the position of being the prime minister's wife, she is also a Muslim activist, a noted author and scholar,and lecturer at the university. She has always impressed upon her students the importance of the Islamic way of life. After receiving a higher education in fine arts, she dedicated herself and her knowledge to the cause of Islam and in the service of oppressed people. She began her political and religious activities under the guidance of eminent scholars and wrote books during this period. Under pressure from the government, she was forced to migrate and that was when she wrote: "The Dawn of the Muslim Woman" and "Message of the Woman's Veil." When the political atmosphere improved in Iran, she returned and wrote: "The Storms and the Hyacinths." Since the Islamic Revolution she has been the editor of the women's magazine *RAH-E ZEYNAB*. Nowadays, Mrs Musavi is engaged in teaching the ideological aspects of Islamic arts and society and in writing.

AFP: 81 Police Officers Killed in Sind Clashes

BK311218 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 31 (AFP) — Eighty-one police officers have been killed and 179 wounded in armed encounters over the past three months with local robbers, known as dacoits, in Pakistan's southern Sind Province, a senior police official said today.

The dacoits, who operate in gangs in the jungles of Sind, harass public transport on highways, and often rob banks and shops in the cities.

During the anti-government movement launched by the opposition parties last autumn, some gangs of dacoits had supported the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. Although the martial law authorities took strict punitive action against them after then, the dacoits have begun resuming their activities, forcing police to appeal for local aid to combat them.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister Comments on Terrorism

BK011152 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Apr 84

[Text] The Indian Government in a letter sent to Sri Lanka has admitted that there is a violent terrorist movement operating here. New Delhi is now aware of the real situation. India does not approve terrorism in the north.

This was disclosed by the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, yesterday. The occasion was the final day of the 84th Mahapola [Sinhalese ceremony] at Mawatagama.

The minister pledged to completely wipe out the terrorism if peace is to be maintained in other areas of the country. He pointed out that his main task and responsibility were to defeat the northern terrorists. They were the opponents of the population. He explained that the antiterrorist movement was not aimed at doing anything wrong to the Tamil population of the country — 95 percent of the Tamil-speaking people does not support terrorism. The minister disclosed that the main problem faced in this regard was the terrorist activities carried out from Jaffna to Point Pedro. This area has a population of about 800,000.

The minister appealed to the public to cooperate with the government to maintain law and order for which the Mahasangha [Buddhist clergy] had already extended their cooperation.

He expressed the government's determination not to allow anybody to divide the country and disrupt the sovereignty of the island. He pledged to work with dedication to achieve this goal.

Briefs

New Ministers Sworn In — Mr Lalith Athulathmudali and Mr M.S. Amarasiri yesterday took oath before the president for two ministries and accepted office. Mr Athulathmudali was sworn in as minister of the new National Security Ministry and deputy minister of defense and Mr Amarasiri took oath as minister of trade and shipping. [Excerpt][Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Mar 84 BK]

Agreement With Canada — The exploration of oil along the western coast of Sri Lanka will begin in July with assistance from Canada. Canada will provide funds and technical assistance valued at 34 million rupees. The areas identified for offshore oil exploration spread from Colombo to Mannar in the case of deep sea exploration, and from Colombo to Chilaw for coastal exploration. About 1,200 meters stretching outward into the sea will be subjected to geophysical survey. An agreement to this effect was signed in Colombo yesterday between the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and Petrocanada, the national oil company of Canada. [Excerpt] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Mar 84 BK]

British Grant for Airport — Britain is to provide an outright grant of 190.5 million rupees to buy equipment for the expansion of the Colombo International Airport. The grant will be met by the cost of equipment and services related to the provision of utilities at the airport which include power, water supply, air and navigation services, and the construction of the control tower, among other things. Letters to this effect were exchanged yesterday between the British high commissioner to Sri Lanka and the secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Mar 84 BK]

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,684

LD021716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,684 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The powerful fighters of Islam, while having full control over the area under their protection in all the battlefronts, yesterday opened heavy artillery fire on enemy positions and units, inflicting losses and casualties upon the Saddamist forces. Sporadic exchanges of fire continued in the northwestern operational zone. Firing continuously, our fighting units neutralized patrol and observation activities and disrupted their engineering and supply activities. In the western operational zone, enemy artillery and armored units came under the crushing fire of the forces of Islam; enemy positions and defensive lines were observed, and their activities were stopped as the result of fire by our forces.

West of the Arvand Rud, 19 enemy light and heavy weapons bunkers were set on fire and destroyed.

At 1030 yesterday, residential areas of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Dehloran were bombed by a number of enemy aircraft. As a result, two of our civilian compatriots were martyred and 7 were injured; 13 houses and shops in those towns were destroyed. Yesterday, as the result of enemy mortar fire on a number of residential areas of Abadan, 12 houses, 4 shops, and 1 administrative building were damaged.

Montazeri Meets With Armed Forces Chief, Clergy

LD030420 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'far Sobani, a teacher at the Qom Seminary, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Ha'eri-Tehrani, a combatant clergymen of Tehran, separately met yesterday with Ayatollah Montazeri.

At his meeting with the chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces, Ayatollah Montazeri expressed the hope that the army would increase its religious and military training more than ever before. He hoped that it would use the popular forces and the expertise acquired in the imposed war so that, God willing, we will soon have a very experienced army, powerful and capable of defending the country and the revolution.

The same report indicates that yesterday in connection with the death sentence passed on several Iraqi and Lebanese youths by the Kuwait Government, a group of combatant theologians and clergymen of Iraq met and conferred with Ayatollah Montazeri and informed his excellency of the anxiety of the combatant clergymen of Iraq and Lebanon concerning the Kuwait Government's actions. Ayatollah Montazeri, while praising their religious sentiments and sympathetic feelings, said at this meeting: It is surprising and unfortunate that the Government of Kuwait, instead of defending Islam and its own nation against the occupying regime of Jerusalem and other foreign and blasphemous powers like the United States and France, expresses hatred and puts on trial those Muslims who, abiding by their Islamic duties, struggle against the enemies of Islam and the Arab nation. Such trials mean nothing but the support of the Kuwait Government for the anti-Islamic and colonialist interests of the occupying regime of Jerusalem, the United States, and France. If the Kuwait Government and other governments of the Persian Gulf region would take shelter under the Koran and Islam and would keep in contact with their own deprived nations, no foreign and strange power would dare dominate them or impose its will on them. Then, these governments would not be forced to imprison and put on trial their own Muslim and brave youths who are fighting against blasphemy in the interest of Islam and the Koran.

Operational Commander Stresses Navy's Readiness

GF010714 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Mar 84 P 3

[Text] The operational commander of the warships in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea has reported the readiness of the Navy to implement the orders of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. In a meeting with the representative of imam in Bandar 'Abbas, the Navy official said: The naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly oppose any war-producing plots in the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea.

Captain 'Abqari, commander of the 1st Naval Warship District, made these comments while visiting Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, representative of the imam and Friday imam of Bandar 'Abbas. He was accompanied by a group of operational commanders from this district on the occasion of the new year. Capt 'Abqari added: We will use our maximum efforts to guard the waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi noted the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz in supplying a large portion of oil to the Western industrial world and thanked the personnel of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic for maintaining the safety of this area. He addressed the personnel of the warships of the Persian Gulf and the Oman Sea: Your responsibility is as important as the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz and you should take care of your responsibilities with great strength and seriousness under the leadership of the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, Imam Khomeyni.

Collection, Removal of Campaign Posters Banned

LD021912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] The Executive Committee for the constituency of Tehran, addressing those individuals who collect and remove the campaign posters of various candidates, in a statement announced: Collection and removal of these posters, which have been installed in authorized areas, are against the law, and the security forces will deal with the offending individuals in accordance with the law.

Radio Iran Report

GF021627 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] National elements report that the people of Tehran and the districts have ripped off or have inscribed slogans on all the campaign posters for the rigged-up elections of the Islamic Majlis in order to show their anger and loathing of the mullahs' regime. This is an indication of their hatred of a regime that has so far given the Iranian nation nothing but tears, blood, and mourning. The defacing of the publicity posters of the government's mullahs and the instruments of repression assumed such proportions that the Executive Committee for Majlis elections issued an announcement warning people against tearing off and taking away the election posters and threatened that anyone who does this will be arrested by the armed officials of the regime.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Leaves for Delhi

LD020912 Tehran IRNA in English 0857 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran April 2 IRNA — Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, the political undersecretary of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, left here for New Delhi this morning, heading a delegation from the Islamic Republic. He is carrying a written message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to Indira Gandhi, head of the Nonaligned Movement.

The Iranian delegation will also hold talks with the Indian minister of external affairs, Narasimha Rao and other Indian officials on mutual ties as well as regional and international issues.

IRNA: Security Council Tacitly Condemns Iraq

LD311545 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 31 Mar 84

["Security Council's Ambivalent Condemnation of Iraq" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Washington, March 31 IRNA — The United Nations Security Council, Thursday night sufficed to issuing a statement generally condemning the use of chemical warfare by any country and fell short of passing a decisive resolution on the issue.

The Security Council held a session to adopt a decision on the report prepared by the U.N. fact-finding mission confirming the use of toxic agents by Iraq in its imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

However, the statement, in a conservative tone, tacitly condemns employment of chemical warfare by Iraq though there is no explicit reference to the Baghdad regime.

The Security Council statement has astonished political circles, since in view of the importance attached to the use of internationally prohibited chemical weapons, observers expected thecouncil to pass a resolution strongly condemning any country, particularly Iraq for employing such weapons.

Observers also believe that U.N's failure to adopt a firm stance in the issue exemplifies its disregard for the fate of the world society and the serious danger that threatens humanity.

In an interview with IRNA, Iran's permanent representative to the U.N., Rajaie-Khorassani, analysed the factors obliging the U.N. Security Council to issue the statement and not turning a blind eye to the whole subject as was the case with the bombardment of Iran's residential areas by the Iraqi regime.

Rajaie said, of the two alternatives, the Security Council adopted the milder option, apparently under the influence of some reactionary elements supporting the Iraqi regime within the council, and agreed on "a mere statement" by the chairman of the council.

He said the U.N. Security Council was the only body responsibile for making sure that the 1925 Geneva Convention was thoroughly observed by all countries and that it was expected to take decisive measures against those who violated the convention, especially a country like Iraq.

Furthermore, he said that due to the tremendous danger that the use of toxic agents posed to mankind as a whole, the question of its use by Iraq ought to be dealt with independently and not in connection with war and peace or in relation with mediating efforts.

The third criticism, he said, was that none of the crimes committed by Saddam Husayn ought to prompt new peace efforts, otherwise the criminal would be rewarded for his misdeeds by establishing peace and evading his downfall. He said such attitude contradicted the spirit of the 1925 Geneva Convention as well as the international rules and regulations about war.

SAIRI Calls for Denunciation of Iraqi Persecution

LD311731 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iran (SAIRI), in a note sent to various international organisations, denounced the continued crimes perpetrated by the regime of Saddam and condemned the persecution by the Iraqi regime of the Iraqi Muslims and martyring the Iraqi ulema. The note was sent to human rights organisation, Amnesty International, U.N. secretary general and the office of the secretariat of the non-aligned countries.

In part the note said that April 19, 1984 is the fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of the great Iraqi alim, Ayatollah Sadr, the religious leader of Iraqi Muslim people and his sister.

SAIRI called on the humanitarian organisations of the world to denounce such acts by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

Commentary Urges Struggle To Recover Jerusalem

GF030711 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] It is really ridiculous that the Islamic city of Jerusalem has become a bargaining issue in the marketplace of U.S. elections. The presidential candidates and other participants in the arena of U.S. policy are competing over who will pick the issue up. Since the Zionist plan to have embassies transfer to the usurped city of Jerusalem failed as a result of the violent reaction by the Islamic nation, Zionist planning shifted to the direction of making this holy city the capital of the Zionist entity. While in Washington, U.S. politicians realized this intention and reached the conclusion that the shortest way for them to reach the Zionist heart is to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to holy Jerusalem.

The deplorable situation of the Islamic holy places stems from the Islamic nation's capitulation and hesitation to continue the struggle to extricate these holy places from the grip of the usurpers. There is no other way to expunge this shame than to struggle and to use all resources in a fateful war with the Zionist usurping enemy. This is the only method that will ensure this nation an honorable life and ensure restoration of its holy places which symbolize its pride and its great Islamic glory.

Free Voice of Iran: 10 Executed in Zanjan

GF311756 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] It has been revealed that the murdering clergy of Iran have executed 10 more men. These men were the opponents of the Islamic Republic regime.

A report published in the French capital yesterday said that the executions took place in Zanjan.

The report concluded by saying that the Islamic Republic regime had refused to hand over the bodies of the executed men to their families.

The executions of the opponents of the regime inside the country by the murdering clergy of Iran continue and they have increased their terrorist activities outside the country as well.

Afghan Muslims Attack Soviet Embassy in Kabul

LD031352 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — Afghan revolutionary Muslims launched a rocket attack on the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, on March 23, setting fire to one of the tanks guarding the embassy grounds as well as inflicting damages to the embassy.

AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, the organ of the revolutionary Muslims announced this, adding that in the shooting which followed another tank was hit by the Muslim forces near the presidential palace while a number of the Soviet and government forces were killed.